

## Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SP-02 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 DOTE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00 /036 W

----- 097252

R 011220Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2765

USDOC WASHDC

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 7290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, SA

SUBJECT: SAG COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' NEW MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE JIDDA  
PORT CONGESTION

1. THE ALARMING INCREASE IN JIDDA PORT CONGESTION IN  
RECENT MONTHS HAS FINALLY TRIGGERED AN INITIAL RESPONSE  
FROM THE SAG COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

2. THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO FLOATING  
QUAYS FOR THE PORT OF JIDDA, AND TWO EACH FOR THE PORTS OF  
RABEGH AND YANBO. COST OF PROJECT: SR 132 MILLION (APPROX-  
IMATELY 37 MILLION DOLLARS).

3. THE COUNCIL ALSO FORMED A COMMITTEE FROM THE MINISTERS  
OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION, PLANNING AND FINANCE TO FOLLOW UP  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROJECTS.

4. COMMENTS: EMBOFF HEARD SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT SAG  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WAS PLANNING TO TAKE "EMERGENCY  
MEASURES" TO DEAL WITH PORT CONGESTION, AND WAS SUBSE-  
QUENTLY DISMAYED TO LEARN OF THE PAUCITY OF THE GOVERN-  
MENT'S RESPONSE. TWO FLOATING QUAYS WILL HARDLY SOLVE THE  
PROBLEMS OF JIDDA PORT WHICH HAVE BEEN OUTLINED IN JIDDA  
A-73. PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN COMPOUNDED BY AWARDING OF PRIORITY  
BERTHING TO VIRTUALLY EVERY INCOMING SHIP, IN EFFECT GRANTING  
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PRIORITY TO NO ONE. START OF JIDDA PHASE II EXPANSION OF

DESALINATION FACILITIES HAS BEEN DELAYED TWO MONTHS, U.S. MSC CONTROLLED SHIPS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE PER DIEM FOR PORT DELAYS IN EXCESS OF TEN DAYS (E.G., SS PIONEER CRUSADER CHARGING \$13,800 PER DAY), AND U.S. LINE GULF CENTRAL CURRENTLY FACED WITH UNTENABLE SITUATION OF 87 BARGES TIED UP IN JIDDA HARBOR WITH NO BERTHING IN SIGHT. 42 ADDITIONAL BARGES ARE DUE TO BE DISCHARGED FROM A GULF CENTRAL LASH VESSEL IN NEAR FUTURE. THIS TOTAL OF 129 REPRESENTS 10 PERCENT OF ALL OF GULF CENTRAL'S BARGES.

5. REQUEST USDOC RELAY SUBSTANCE OF THIS CABLE TO FOLLOWING FIRMS: LYKES STEAMSHIP, BROWN AND ROOT, RAYMOND INTERNATIONAL, AND SEALAND INC. WE ANTICIPATE (HOPE?) THAT "EMERGENCY MEASURES" WILL LEAD TO A GREATER RESPONSE AND GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. FIRMS.  
AKINS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975JIDDA07290  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750380-0442  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 SEP 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAG COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' NEW MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE JIDDA PORT CONGESTION  
**TAGS:** BTIO, SA  
**To:** STATE DHAHRAN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006